

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
May 19, 2003 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: Brian C. Warburton, Chairman, Virginia Bridle,
William Sullivan, James A. Workman, Cliff Pratt
James S. Barrington, Town Manager
Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC HEARING – The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing to take comments on the acceptance of the Domestic Preparedness Equipment Grant for the police department in the amount of \$27,155.60.

There were no public comments and the hearing was closed at 7:05 PM. Mr. Barrington said that he believes that the grant is going to be used towards the costs of the digital communication upgrades for the police cruisers.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen accept the Domestic Preparedness grant for the police department in the amount of \$27,155.60.

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Warren Bambury led the audience in the salute to the flag.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Fishing Derby

Mr. Pratt announced that the Annual Fishing Derby is May 26th from 8AM-10AM at Batchelder Pond.

Children Playing

Mrs. Bridle said that with nice weather here she wanted to remind residents that yards and parks are for children to play in and she urged parents not to allow children to play in the streets.

Thank You

Mr. Sullivan passed along Mr. Bowley's thanks for the cooperation he received at the beach for the parking accommodations that were made by residents on the side streets so that the street sweeping could take place.

Auction

Mr. Workman announced that the Annual Auction to benefit Our Lady of Miraculous Medal will be held on May 24th at the Inn of Hampton.

Birthday Wishes

Mr. Warburton announced several milestone birthdays for Hampton residents this week; May 22nd -Sharon Buck will be 60; May 23rd -Marge Dignam will be 70; and Robert Preston celebrated a birthday last week.

Woodburn Tribute

Mr. Warburton told the public that there will be a tribute to Mr. John Woodburn, who retired from the Hampton School Board after 30 years on May 30th from 7-9 PM at the Inn of Hampton. Tickets are still available through a School Board member.

Rotary Commendations

Mr. Warburton told the Board that the Rotary International presents a very prestigious award known as the Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of a member's outstanding efforts for Rotary. Mr. Warburton was proud to announce that Sandy Buck received this award and Town Manager, James Barrington received a triple Paul Harris recognition for the funds he raised in the March auction for shaving his beard. In conjunction with that, Mr. Barrington's wife Darlene and two of his grandchildren, Aryauna and Hunter were also named Paul Harris Fellows.

Memorial Day

Mr. Sullivan outlined the Memorial Day services that will start at 8:00 AM, with the parade beginning in Hampton at 11:15 AM. He noted that the parade will start behind the Fire Station on Winnacunnet Road and end at the cemetery. At the conclusion of the ceremonies at the cemetery, there will be a dedication of the monument to the victims of September 11, 2001 at Station II. Mr. Sullivan said that a representative of the New York Fire Department union will take part in the dedication.

Selectman Warburton

Mr. Warburton said that he has often been considered a “maverick”, and he is proud of that because a maverick works very hard and says what he means. Mr. Warburton said that he has been a maverick in his service to the Town of Hampton and he has received a great deal of enjoyment as a Selectmen for nine years. He said that most elected officials wait until the last minute to let the voters know what their future plans are, but as he will be finishing his third term in March, 2004 he is announcing that he will not be seeking re-election to a fourth term. Mr. Warburton said that he is happy with this serious decision and noted that he will stay involved with the town in many ways. Mr. Sullivan predicted that the New Hampshire political scene has not seen the last of Mr. Warburton.

III. APPOINTMENTS1. Mr. Warren Bambury, Rockingham Planning Commission Project Updates

Mr. Warburton stated that there has not been a representative to a town committee that has had as exemplary attendance and participation as Warren has as a commissioner with the Rockingham Planning Commission.

Mr. Bambury pointed out that both Mr. Warburton and Mr. Pratt have also been Rockingham Planning Commissioners. Mr. Bambury said that he wanted to report on what the RPC has been working on. A current project in need of support from the Town of Hampton is the American Independence Byway. Mr. Bambury requested that the Board of Selectmen grant permission to locate some signs indicating the American Independence Byway in specific places along the route and that the Public Works Department be allowed to erect the signs. The locations for the signs are predominantly on High Street and Exeter Road. Mr. Bambury explained that the byway is made up of a historic route that travels from Exeter, into Hampton, through Hampton Falls to Kensington and back to Exeter, for a total of 24 miles. He added that this project has been in the works for two years and this week the RPC received a grant for \$4,700 to be used for the signage that will designate the historic locations. The byway road signs are being supplied by the State and the town is being requested to supply the posts and labor to install them.

Mr. Warburton noted that the Grist Mill on High Street would be one of the locations of the signs. Mr. Bambury said that the historic location sign designating the Grist Mill would be one of those funded through the grant. The road signs would be used to help visitors stay on the route. There will also be a brochure made available that will help visitors follow the byway.

Mr. Workman said that he thinks it is a great plan and knows that there has been a lot of work put into it. Mr. Pratt asked when the signs would be going up. Mr. Bambury said that they would like to have them up by the end of June. Mr. Barrington asked if there are specific areas where you want the signs placed. Mr. Bambury said that the Department of Transportation has designated the appropriate locations.

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Public Works Department to put up the American Independence Byway signs in the locations designated by the Rockingham Planning Commission.

Mr. Workman SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Bambury also pointed out that the RPC is currently in the middle of a contest to design a logo for the Byway and the entry forms are available at the Town Office. Mr. Bambury commended the other two Hampton residents that serve on this committee, Jeremiah Lonergan and Kristina Arrain.

Mr. Bambury updated the Board on the activities of the Regional Planning Commission as they relate to Hampton. He told the Board that the Route 1 Study project has VHB working in the area and aerial photography was completed this week. Each of the communities will be receiving the digitalized pictures and software for their use. Public meetings will be held in each of the communities for input on the Route 1 Study during the next month and the main intent of VHB is to look forward to the needs of this road in twenty years. Mr. Bambury told the Board that the RPC is looking for two representatives from each town to serve on an advisory committee that will meet eight or ten times over the course of two years. Mr. Warburton said that with the public hearing being scheduled during the summer, he recommended as much advance notice as possible.

Mr. Bambury told the Board that the RPC is also in the process of surveying each road in Hampton to create an updated road inventory. The inventory is being done by a van with electronic and digital equipment and it is measuring the length and width of each road. He noted that all of the lettered and numbered streets have been done and one of the things that has turned up is that the State had listed all of those streets as private roads. This correction will impact the revenue the town receives from gasoline tax and any other revenues that are based on road mileage. He noted that the van is green with red signage and will be driving slowly down each street.

Other areas that the planning commission is studying include regional wastewater treatment plant outfalls and desalination. Mr. Bambury noted that these are regional efforts for regional answers.

Mr. Bambury told the Board that Hampton has the highest "non-attainment" rate in New Hampshire, which indicates that the air quality is not good, but it does give the Town an advantage in acquiring CEMAQ funds that are available through the Department of Transportation. He said that this year he would be requesting the continuation of the bike path that was approved with the last round of funding and he would be requesting the Selectmen's approval to pursue that funding. Mr. Warburton asked if there would be funds needed from the town as a match to the CEMAQ funds. Mr. Bambury said that it is an 80/20 match and the town will be getting the funds next year for the work that was already approved in the last round of funding. Mr. Bambury pointed out that at one time the Board of Selectmen had approved the entire Winnacunnet Road and Exeter Road project and the 20% funding had already been committed. He would need to determine if those funds were already approved. Mr. Barrington said that the while approved he does not believe they have been appropriated and he would be happy to work with Mr. Bambury on the continuation of that project. Mr. Barrington recommended that a new resolution from the current Board of Selectmen would be appropriate.

Mr. Sullivan said that he sat on a transportation committee task force with Mr. Bambury regarding the rail system and he asked if the RPC has done anything further with that. Mr. Bambury said that they are still heavily involved with that and the project was moving along until six months ago when the Federal Government withdrew its support for rail expansions. He said that the RPC understands it will be eight - ten years before it will be funded. Mr. Sullivan noted that Guilford is trying to abandon the section of rail into Hampton and RPC has taken a stand in opposition to that. Mr. Bambury said that the RPC would help in what ever way they can with that problem.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Town Manager's Report

Crosswalks

Public Works Director John Hangen reports that the scheduled street strip painting has suffered from rainout. The contractor is continuing to work on it, but may not be finished before the Memorial Day weekend. The bright blue crosswalks will be expanded to other areas because they were so well received last year.

Fire Training

Mr. Barrington reported that Chief Lipe met with Attorney Gearreald and him about concerns he has with a mandated training that the State Fire Academy is requiring. The training requires overnight stays and is required even if a firefighter transfers from one department to another. With the contractual obligations, the Town would have to pay the firefighter for the time they are at the training, pay for the course, and pay overtime for the shift to be filled. The approximate cost is \$5,200 per firefighter. Mr. Barrington said that they do intend to make an issue of this with the State and will be looking into it further. Mr. Sullivan encouraged Mr. Barrington's efforts on this.

Exeter Road Bridge

Mr. Barrington informed the Board that he met with Joanne Fryer of CLD Consulting regarding the Exeter Road bridge project and she was surprised to hear of the letter from Guilford about the discontinuance of that section of the line. She did note that Guilford has not been very cooperative with the testing work that needs to be done. CLD would like to update the Board and get some feedback on the project at the June 2nd meeting.

Basement Leak

The Town Manager said that he had a call today from the contractor who is working on the sealing of the pump area in the basement and he will be coming out this week to make the final arrangements to seal the elevator shaft.

Emergency Response Drill

Mr. Barrington reminded the Board of the series of training programs last winter that many of the staff participated in about weapons of mass destruction. Wednesday of this week, an actual exercise will take place to follow up on that training. The Board members will be contacted at the start of the exercise and all are welcome to attend.

Barn Preservation Easements

Attorney Gearreald would be available to meet with the Board to assist with the preservation easements for the Barns next week in a non-meeting. The Board agreed that would be advisable.

High Street Parking Lot

Mr. Pratt asked if the Town Manager has had any contact in regard to the High Street parking lot. Mr. Barrington said that he spoke with Parker Ryan today about that lot. He said that in conjunction with the bridge project it is conceivable that some additional parking may be possible. Mr. Pratt suggested that the town send a letter out to some of the business people in that area to get the committee organized.

Ocean Boulevard Crosswalk

Mrs. Bridle asked about the possible installation of a crosswalk on Ocean Boulevard at High Street and Ocean Boulevard. Mr. Barrington said that is an area that is discussed every year and is the responsibility of the State. He understands that there are some concerns with handicapped accessibility at the adjacent sidewalk; he will follow up with Mr. Burlage.

Marelli Square Sidewalk

Mr. Sullivan asked if the sidewalk in Marelli Square will be replaced this year. Mr. Barrington said that the easement has not been signed yet, but after it is the sidewalk will be a priority.

Lafayette Road Grass

Mr. Workman said that on Lafayette Road there are some civic minded businesses have taken care to mow the grass in front of their properties, while there are others that do not. The areas that are not mowed look terrible and he asked what the town's intent was. Mr. Warburton said that last year the Board voted that the town would take care of that grass. Mr. Barrington said that he will remind Mrs. Martin that the Recreation Department needs to maintain that. Mr. Workman said that the sooner it is done, the better.

Flowers in Downtown Area

Mr. Warburton read a letter from Jude Dionne regarding the support the Board had extended to the Chamber of Commerce for the installation and maintenance of flower boxes downtown. Ms. Dionne related that as a result of their evaluation, it was determined that the flower boxes are not practical but that there were existing brackets on poles that could be used for hanging flower baskets.

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED to allow the Chamber of Commerce to sponsor flower pots to be hung from existing brackets in the downtown area.

Mr. Pratt SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Gazebo

Mrs. Bridle asked about the status of the gazebo. Mr. Barrington will follow up on that.

Adopt-A-Spot Locations

Mrs. Bridle asked if the Adopt a Spot location sponsors have been notified for renewals for this year. Mr. Barrington will follow up.

V. NEW BUSINESSHighway Safety Matters

Mr. Warburton said that the Highway Safety Committee has referred to the Board a request that sidewalk lines be placed on the north and south sides of Atlantic Avenue. Mr. Sullivan said that his only concern is that if they do it on Atlantic Avenue, how many streets will also request this. Mr. Barrington said that this may be a good temporary step because the sidewalks have not been replaced in that area. They will have sidewalks as a result of the major infrastructure improvements. Mr. Sullivan asked if sidewalks were to be painted, would there be cars parking in the painted area. Mr. Barrington said that in all likelihood there will be issues with residents not being able to park in some areas. The Board requested additional information on this before approval, and will discuss it again on June 2nd.

Budget Committee

Mrs. Bridle said that Budget Committee will be meeting this week and will be discussing goals for the next budget season. She asked if the Board members had any goals they would like discussed. Mr. Barrington said that last year, after some discussion the Budget Committee did not set a budgetary goal, although the year prior they set a goal of 3.5% increase. He said that he did not have a problem with goal setting. Mr. Sullivan said that he would be looking for a flat budget, with the exclusion of health insurance and retirement for 2004. Mrs. Bridle agreed and said that with the costs of housing and unemployment she thinks that the expenses should be kept very flat. Mr. Sullivan said that the union contracts have been signed, and with the need for a new high school and new fire station, the operating budget should be as flat as possible. Mr. Workman agreed and said that many towns are having to do this.

After School Program

Mrs. Bridle told the Town Manager said that she would like to be involved with the wrap-up meeting for the Recreation Department's After School Program.

Cable Committee

Mr. Sullivan told the Board that the Cable Committee met last week and the new Chairman is Peter McKinnon. They are also recommending that Mr. Thomas Harrington be appointed as a new member. One of the items discussed at the meeting included a request that the Cable Committee be allowed to purchase jackets for the members so that they are easily recognized as being with Channel 22 when filming outside events.

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED to appoint Tom Harrington to the Cable Committee for a three-year term.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Warburton said that he thought the jackets were a great idea. The Board agreed and asked that they come back to the Board with a cost.

VI. MINUTES

The minutes of May 12, 2003 were accepted as written.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Raffle Permit
2. Request for Entertainment Permit

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the consent agenda items be approved.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Police Station Ground Breaking

Mr. Warburton said that the tentative ground-breaking for the police facility is being planned for June 26th at 6 p.m. There will be more information as plans are confirmed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sullivan MOTIONED that the meeting be adjourned. (8:35 PM)

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman